

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MASERU 00001 021642Z

41

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 IO-10 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 OMB-01 AID-05 ARA-06 /102 W

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R 021353Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY MASERU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5426

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MASERU 0001

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AO, LT, US

SUBJECT: ANGOLA: LESOTHO POSITION

REF: A. 75 STATE 303313, B. 75 MASERU 1308

1. CHARGE CALLED ON FONMIN MOLAPO TODAY TO RAISE SUBJECT OF ANGOLA AND RE-EMPHASIZE U.S. CONVICTION THAT RECOGNITION OF MPLA, ESPECIALLY BY OAU COUNTRIES, WOULD DAMAGE CHANCES OF A CEASE-FIRE AND NEOGITATED SETTLEMENT. CHARGE DREW HEAVILY ON SECRETARY'S DEC 23 PRESS CONFERENCE.

2. MINISTER REPLIED BY MAKING THREE POINTS:

A. HE CONTINUES TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT SOUTH AFRICAN INTERVENTION, EFFECT OF WHICH IS SOLIDIFYING OAU COUNTRIES' SUPPORT OF MPLA. HE WAS PLEASED THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER HAD PUBLICLY CALLED FOR WITHDRAWAL OF SOUTH AFRICAN AS WELL AS CUBAN AND SOVIET PERSONNEL.

B. HE IS STILL WORRIED THAT CUTOFF OF U.S. SUPPORT OF UNITA AND
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PAGE 02 MASERU 00001 021642Z

FNLA WILL BE EXTREMELY HARMFUL AND WILL SEVERELY DAMAGE THOSE

PARTIES' CHANCES OF GETTING MPLA TO NEGOTIATE. HE HOPES U.S. WILL FIND WAYS TO CONTINUE SUPPORT TO UNITA/FNLA.

C. ALTHOUGH HE PERSONALLY SUPPORTS UNITA AND HAS A "HUMAN COMMITMENT"

TO IT, LESOTHO WILL NOT BASE ITS POSITION AT OAU MEETINGS ON SUPPORT FOR ANY PARTICULAR MOVEMENT. RATHER, LESOTHO WILL ATTEMPT TO ENLIST SUPPORT OF ZAMBIA AND ZAIRE IN LEADING DISCUSSIONS TOWARD A CALL FOR A CEASE-FIRE, WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FOREIGN FORCES (HE WONDERED HOW SUCH A WITHDRAWAL COULD BE MONITORED), AND NEGOTIATION OF A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT BETWEEN THE THREE PARTIES. MOLAPO SAID HE WOULD NOT VENTURE A GUESS AS TO DIRECTION OAU PROCEEDINGS WILL TAKE. (

3. MOLAPO CLOSED MEETING BY ASKING FOR ADDITIONAL COPIES OF SECRETARY'S PRESS CONFERENCE, WHICH WE ARE PROVIDING.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT IS THAT MOLAPO WILL DO WHATEVER HE CAN TO PREVENT OAU FROM SIDING WITH MPLA. HOWEVER, LESOTHO DOES NOT HAVE GREAT DEAL OF INFLUENCE IN OAU. MOREOVER, MOLAPO APPEARS TO FEEL VULNERABLE ON ISSUE OF SOUTH AFRICAN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA, I.E., HE MAY BE RELUCTANT TO PRESS DEFENSE OF UNITA/FNLA TOO FAR LEST HE APPEAR TO BE SIDING WITH SOUTH AFRICA. HAUGHT

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